

For Offering Invitations:

Thank you for inviting us all to the offering this Sunday. Personal invitations from members greatly enhance the worship experience, help people get to know one another better, and give visitors an idea of what kind of spiritual community we are. Your “testimony” is a great gift to us all.

### Content

Please keep it personal. We encourage you to answer any and all of these questions:

- Why is First Church important to me?
- How has it shaped my faith and spirituality?
- Why do I support First Church?

### Length

It is also very important to keep this invitation BRIEF (less than 200 words). This is often very hard to do, but will help keep worship moving along.

### Visitors

Let visitors know that their presence is enough of an offering. We invite them to pass the offering plate by.

### Ways to Give

Let people know they can give in different ways: in-person via the offering plate, online through the website, via text message, or by mailing a check to the church.

### Closing with the Ask

Close with something like:

I invite us all to give generously to the work of First Church. The ushers will now receive our offering.

### Picking up your cue

Please anticipate picking up your cue in worship, coming up slightly before the time for the Offering Invitation, to help keep the flow of worship going.

### Delivery

Please also remember to speak more LOUDLY, SLOWLY, and DISTINCTLY than you think necessary.

### ***Examples on the next page***

### Prayer of Dedication (after the offering has been collected and we have sung the Doxology)

A prayer that thanks God for the gifts given, and blesses/asks God to use the gifts for holy purpose in the world.

#### Examples:

- 1) Thank you, God, for these gifts of your people that have been freely given. Take, and multiply them, to use them for your holy work in the world for the promotion of justice, peace, and faith. In your name we pray, Amen.
- 2) We thank you, God, for these gifts we offer back to you now. We dedicate each of them, and all that we give of ourselves, to you. Mark them for holy use, to share your message of love and life with all we meet. Amen.

## Examples

1)

Now everyone stop. 1-2-3-4-5. Do you feel something? Like a cozy, tingling feeling? Well that feeling is the love that's radiating in this room. That is part of the reason I still come to [name of church]. So many people care and love each other. There are no words to describe it. Now, who here has been baptized in this church? Raise your hands. Well, I have, and when the pastor asked this congregation if they will love and care for me, and raise me, you all said, "I do" and you have certainly kept this promise. So, let me thank you. Thank you for all the long-lasting friends, thank you for the laughter, all the fun but, mostly for all the love. If you are a visitor with us, please know your presence is gift enough and you can pass the offering plate by. If you consider [name of church] your church home, then I invite you to give generously as you are able, whether right now, online, via text, or by mailing a check. The ushers will now come forward.

2)

[name of church] is a very special place. There is an incredible amount of love in here. Everyone here is looking to find something, be that spiritual guidance, the passion of a community bent on helping those in need, or the urge to be a part of something larger than themselves and to make a difference. [name of church] provides the opportunity for all of those things. When my family and I first moved to [community] seven years ago, we came looking for a place in the community where we could grow spiritually and be social. We stayed because the youth programs and music at this church are unlike any other. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I think [name of church] is doing a great job at positively influencing the generation of tomorrow. This year I will be graduating high school and going off to college so I'd like to thank this community for showing me so much love the last few years. If you are a visitor with us, know your presence is gift enough to us. Feel free to let the offering plate pass you by. If [name of church] is your church home, then I hope you will give generously to the work of this church. You can give in-person now, online, via text, or by mailing in a check. I invite the ushers to now receive our offering.

3)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I was raised with a Christian background. While in college, I attended chapel off and on. Most times, I visited the house of Sealy with the Reverend Posterpedic Mattress. Some years later, I moved to [community]. One night, I prayed to the Lord to lead me to a church. The next day it was 90°F. While walking my dog, I stopped in at [name of church] to rest. I enjoyed the coolness of the building. That night, I again asked God to help me find a church.

All summer I continued walking my dog and stopping at [name of church]. Finally, I began to think that maybe I was praying for the wrong thing. Through prayer, I began to ask God to send me to a church where I would be a part of a family. A few weeks later, I began to attend morning worship services at [name of church]. One Sunday during the worship, I fell into joy and my heart became warm and light. I WAS HOME!

My offering went from something that was just part of the worship or something I was supposed to do, to something that is about caring for those who care for me, because we are family. If you are a visitor today, thank you- your presence is enough of a gift. For everyone who calls [name of church] home like me, I invite you to give generously to the work of this church. Ways to give include this time of offering, online through our website, via text message, or by mailing a check to the office. The ushers will now receive the gifts of God's people.